

UPDATING NEWTOWN'S PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- 2003 Update -

Plan Memorandum #10

Community Facilities



Submitted to the:
Newtown Planning and Zoning Commission

Prepared by:
Harrall-Michalowski Associates, Inc.

January 2003

Newtown, Connecticut

PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

2002 - 2003 Update

Plan Memorandum # 10

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

**Prepared for the:
Newtown Planning and Zoning Commission**

**Prepared by:
Harrall-Michalowski Associates
Hamden, Connecticut**

January 2003

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I. COMMUNITY FACILITIES INVENTORY

The provision of municipal infrastructure and community facilities is one of the primary functions of town government. The availability, condition, capacity, and cost of municipal infrastructure and community facilities affect Newtown's land use, the density of development and in general, the quality of life of the community.

A. General Government Facilities

General government functions in Newtown are administered from a variety of locations as described as follows:

Edmond Town Hall- Main Street

Assessor
Community Development Office
Finance
First Selectman's Office
Human Resources
Probate Judge
Registrars of Voters
Tax Collector
Town Clerk

Town Hall South- Main Street

Parks and Recreation
Police Department
Social Services

Canaan House- Fairfield Hills

Building Department
Fire Marshal
Health District
Land Use Agency-
(Planning & Zoning Commission, Zoning Board
of Appeals and Conservation Commission)

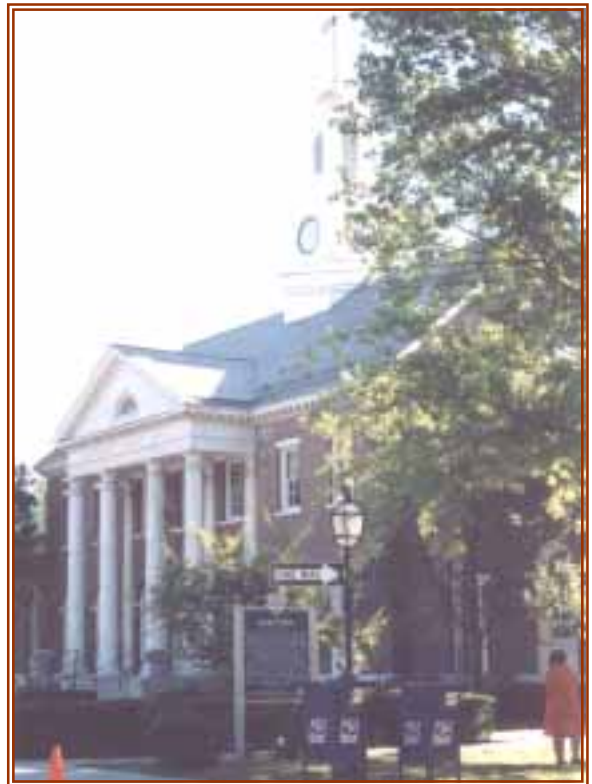
Public Works Building- Turkey Hill Rd

Highway Department
Public Works
Town Engineer

Multi Purpose Building- Riverside Rd.

Senior Center

In addition, the Board of Education's administrative offices are located in Canaan House, on the Fairfield Hills campus.



Responding to the need to develop a more organized approach to housing municipal government functions, the Town undertook an analysis to identify present and future municipal space needs and develop a strategy to meet those needs. In June of 2001, voters authorized a bond referendum to develop a Town Hall on the Fairfield Hills Campus. This facility would replace Edmond Town Hall and consolidate many municipal government services under one roof. The uses currently being considered to be housed within the Fairfield Hills Town Hall include: Assessor, Community Development Office, Finance, First Selectman's Office, Human Resources, Probate Judge, Registrars of Voters, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Building Department, Town Engineer, Director of Public Works, Conservation, Fire Marshal, Health District, Land Use Agency and Board of Education.



Public Works Facility

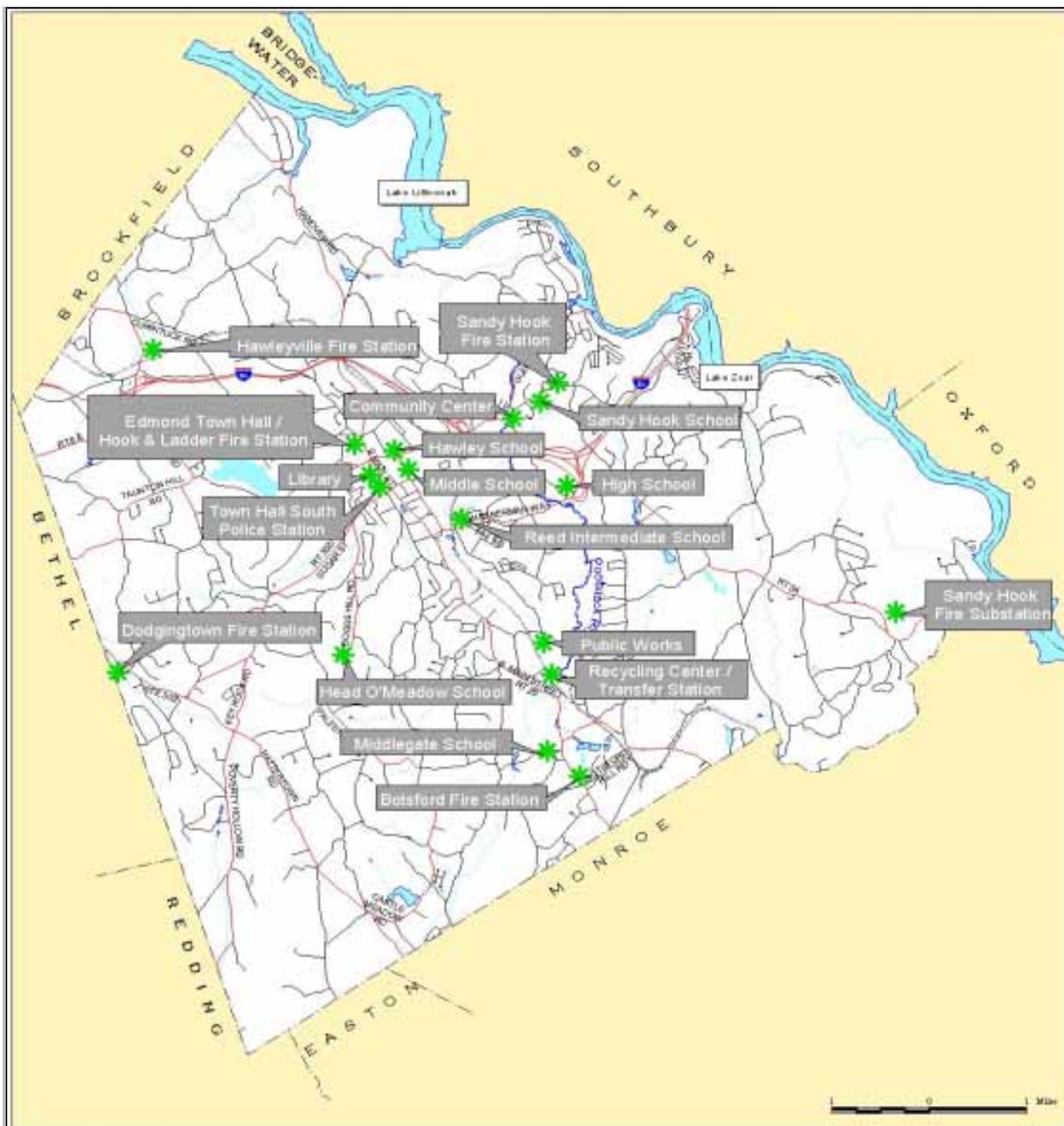
The Town of Newtown is in the process of acquiring the former Fairfield Hills Hospital campus and surrounding land and the Town is currently in the final stages of planning for the future municipal uses which will be located on this site. In addition to the relocation of Town Hall to Fairfield Hills, as approved by voters in June of 2001, it is possible that other municipal services may also be relocated to Fairfield Hills.

Such other uses may include the Senior Center, currently located in the Multi-Purpose building in Sandy Hook and in need of additional space, and the Parks and Recreation Department, which is currently located in the lower level of Town Hall South and also looking for additional space. The characteristics of the services rendered by these two municipal agencies generate space requirements which can not be efficiently accommodated within a Town Hall setting.



Multi-Purpose Building – Sandy Hook

While the future Town Hall will provide space for the functions of administering most town services, other facilities are maintained by the Town for purposes of storing and maintaining the equipment used by town departments in providing other essential municipal services. These include the Department of Public Works facility, located on Turkey Hill Road and the Park and Recreation maintenance and storage facility, located at Treadwell Park. This latter facility has been termed inadequate to meet current and future needs and the Town's draft Capital Improvements Plan through the



SOURCE OF DATA:

Local Records -
 Springfield Valley Council of Ethnic Officials, 1995, 2000, 2002

Legend

 Community Facilities

Community Facilities

Plan of Conservation & Development

Newtown, Connecticut



HARRALL-MICHALOWSKI
 ASSOCIATES, Incorporated

Hartford, Connecticut

January 2003

THIS MAP WAS DEVELOPED FOR USE AS A
 PLANNING DOCUMENT. REPRESENTATIONS MAY
 NOT BE EXACT.

year 2007 has allocated \$1,600,000 for the design and construction of a new Parks and Recreation maintenance facility.

B. Newtown's Public School Facilities

Existing School Facilities: With the opening of the Reed Intermediate School, the Newtown Public School system consists of four elementary schools serving grades pre-kindergarten through 4, an intermediate school serving grades 5 and 6, a middle

Table 1

NEWTOWN SCHOOL FACILITIES

<u>School</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Year Built</u>	<u>Additions & Renovations</u>	<u># of Classrooms</u>	<u>Current Enrollment</u>	<u>Rated Capacity</u>
Hawley Elementary	29 Church Hill Rd.	PK-5	1921	1948/1997	26	471	550
Sandy Hook Elementary	Dickenson Drive	K-5	1956	1964/1993/2000	34	658	764
Head O'Meadow Elem.	94 Boggs Hill Road	K-5	1977		22	471	513
Middle-Gate Elementary	7 Cold Spring Road	PK-5	1964	1993	25	468	580
Reed Intermediate	3 Trades Lane	5-6	2003		44	839	1,100
Middle School	11 Queen Street	6-8	1951	1954/'56/'70/'87	69	851	1,077
High School	12 Berkshire Rd (Rt 34)	9-12	1970	1997	88	1,418	1,525
Alternative High School	Canaan House	9-12	1940	2000	8	18*	20

* Alternative High School students are included under High School enrollment above.

Source: Newtown Board of Education; HMA

school serving grades 7 and 8 and a high school serving grades 9 through 12. Newtown Board of Education administrative offices and the Alternative High School are currently housed in Canaan House, on the Fairfield Hills Campus. Table 1 presents a summary of Newtown's public school facilities.

Student Enrollment: School enrollment has risen steadily from 3,711 students in the 1993/1994 school year to 5,201 students in the 2002/2003 school year, an increase of

Table 2

NEWTOWN SCHOOL FACILITIES **STUDENT ENROLLMENT BY FACILITY**

<u>School Facility</u>	<u>School Year</u>									<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
	<u>1993/1994</u>	<u>1994/1995</u>	<u>1995/1996</u>	<u>1996/1997</u>	<u>1997/1998</u>	<u>1998/1999</u>	<u>1999/2000</u>	<u>2000/2001</u>	<u>2001/2002</u>		
Hawley Elementary	322	339	349	389	488	525	547	557	546	224	69.6%
Sandy Hook Elementary	563	564	611	636	638	668	700	723	760	197	35.0%
Head O'Meadow Elem.	506	547	553	551	550	552	570	576	578	72	14.2%
Middle-Gate Elementary	475	471	489	495	507	530	539	567	550	75	15.8%
Middle School	853	888	897	930	953	1,044	1,116	1,186	1,220	367	43.0%
High School	992	1,012	1,085	1,074	1,125	1,194	1,244	1,332	1,364	372	37.5%
Totals	3,711	3,821	3,984	4,075	4,261	4,513	4,716	4,941	5,018	1,307	35.2%

Source: Connecticut Department of Education, Strategic School Profiles; HMA

1,490 students. The increase in student enrollment necessitated several school improvement and expansion projects, culminating with the construction of the Reed Intermediate School on the Fairfield Hills Campus, which opened in January of 2003. The Reed Intermediate School houses fifth grade students, who were previously taught in the Town's four elementary schools and sixth grade students, who were previously taught in the Middle School. As a result of the opening of the new Intermediate School and moving grade 6 from the Middle School to the Intermediate School, enrollment in the Middle School has decreased by approximately 1/3. Moving grade 5 from the Town's four elementary schools to the new Intermediate School should also "free-up four to five rooms at each elementary building..."¹

Table 3

NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Actual Enrollment and Enrollment Projections

School Year	PreK	Elementary Schools	Intermediate School	Middle School	High School	Totals
1992/1993	33	1,468	556	540	931	3,528
1993/1994	14	1,534	592	570	992	3,702
1994/1995	17	1,609	601	578	1,012	3,817
1995/1996	12	1,695	590	601	1,085	3,983
1996/1997	14	1,743	626	616	1,074	4,073
1997/1998	18	1,810	678	628	1,125	4,259
1998/1999	17	1,882	747	673	1,194	4,513
1999/2000	23	1,927	801	721	1,244	4,716
2000/2001	17	2,010	814	768	1,332	4,941
2001/2002	26	2,006	806	816	1,364	5,018
2002/2003	25	2,059	842	848	1,427	5,201
2003/2004	25	2,077	879	858	1,532	5,371
2004/2005	25	2,122	875	880	1,606	5,508
2005/2006	25	2,103	920	919	1,666	5,633
2006/2007	25	2,138	942	914	1,727	5,746
2007/2008	25	2,111	919	963	1,776	5,794
2008/2009	25	2,099	944	984	1,793	5,845
2009/2010	25	2,075	942	960	1,882	5,884
2010/2011	25	2,050	950	986	1,895	5,906
2011/2012	25	2,020	957	984	1,925	5,911
2012/2013	25	2,026	924	992	1,965	5,932

Source: Connecticut Department of Education; Newtown Board of Education; HMA

Enrollment Projections: Enrollment projections have been prepared for the Newtown Board of Education by the Connecticut Department of Education and by school

¹ Source: Enrollment Projection Update- Newtown Public Schools, Bothwell Consulting Associates, December 2002, page 7.



Sandy Hook Elementary School



Head O'Meadow Elementary School



Sandy Hook Elementary School



Middle Gate Elementary School



Reed Intermediate School



Newtown Middle School



Newtown High School

enrollment projection consultants, contracted by the Newtown Board of Education. The Board of Education is currently using the State's enrollment projections for facility planning, as presented in Table 3. These estimates project continued growth in student enrollment.

In preparing these projections, the Connecticut Department of Education looks back five years to understand the historical growth in enrollment, examines annual "in-migration," labor force changes, the rate of housing development and considers the Town's potential to accommodate future growth.

Facility Requirements: The Newtown Board of Education has the responsibility for evaluating how to best meet the Town's future school facility needs. These needs include:

Elementary Schools: Based upon the State enrollment projections presented above, it appears that the Town will have sufficient facility capacity to accommodate elementary enrollments through the 2012-2013 school year. Although sufficient elementary school capacity exists during this planning horizon, it would be prudent for the Town to consider land banking an elementary school site of approximately 25 acres in size to meet long term future needs. The Town has established a strategy for locating its newer elementary schools within the neighborhoods served. Based upon residential development patterns and the fact that Sandy Hook Elementary School has an enrollment level which is approximately 30% greater than the Town's other elementary schools, a possible location for land banking for a future elementary school would be in the southeastern area of Town.

Intermediate and Middle Schools: A comparison of the rated student capacity of the Intermediate and Middle Schools to future student enrollment projections indicates that these facilities will have sufficient capacities through the 2012-2013 school year.

High School: While no monies have been budgeted in the Town's draft Capital Improvements Plan through the year 2007 for school expansion, based upon the above enrollment projections, the High School facility will reach its enrollment capacity beginning in the Fall of 2003 and exceed rated capacity by 440 students by the 2012-2013 school year. To address this lack of capacity in the short term, the Board of Education is considering moving the Technology Department, Pupil Services, Personnel Services, Director of Buildings and Grounds, and Adult Education from the High School, to be housed with the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Business and Transportation offices. By moving these functions out of the High School, several additional classrooms will become available to meet enrollment increases. This is viewed as a temporary solution to address a lack of student capacity.

To meet the facility demands caused by enrollment being over capacity by 440 high school students by the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education has considered two primary options. One option is to expand the existing High School. Some of the problems associated with this option include poor soils to support building

construction, site limitations that would either place a new addition too near to Route 34 or force a vertical building expansion necessitating a special waiver from the Connecticut Department of Education and the need to expand parking capacity by construction of a parking deck.

The second option considered is the development of a High School Academy on the Fairfield Hills Campus, to function as a satellite of Newtown High School. Such a facility has the advantages of being located in close proximity to the existing High School, being located adjacent to proposed athletic fields and being located on property which will soon be owned by the Town. To facilitate the development of the "Academy," consideration was given to either renovating an existing Fairfield Hills Campus building or building a new facility.

The Board of Education has expressed a preference for building a new High School Academy building on the Fairfield Hills Campus, with an enrollment capacity of 500 students. This facility would function as a satellite facility of the existing High School. This idea has been conveyed to the Fairfield Hills Advisory Committee and has been incorporated into the Draft Master Plan for the future use of Fairfield Hills.

Alternative High School: The Newtown school system includes an Alternative High School program serving a limited number of students whose educational needs are best met outside the traditional high school classroom environment. Currently, this program has an enrollment of eighteen students and is housed adjacent to the Board of Education's administrative offices in Canaan House, on the Fairfield Hills Campus. This program currently occupies approximately 2,400 square feet of space. The Board of Education proposes to expand this program to accommodate up to 50 students occupying approximately 6,000 square feet of space. The future location of the Alternative High School is currently being discussed with the Fairfield Hills Advisory Committee. The Board of Education's preferred option is to incorporate the Alternative High School into a new Town Hall, to be located on the Fairfield Hills Campus.

Administrative Offices: The Board of Education's administrative offices, including the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Business and Transportation offices, are located in Canaan House, on the Fairfield Hills Campus. These uses occupy approximately 7,500 square feet of space (excluding bathrooms and hallways). In considering the development of a new Town Hall facility on the Fairfield Hills Campus, an approach was developed to incorporate the Board of Education administrative offices within the Town Hall.

With the Board of Education proposing to combine the Technology Department, Pupil Services, Personnel Services, Director of Buildings and Grounds and Adult Education functions, currently housed in the High School, with the Board's main administrative offices, the office space requirements have risen to 14,000 square feet. The Draft Master Plan for Fairfield Hills contains a proposed 40,000 square foot new Town Hall building. This includes one floor at 13,000 square feet for Board of Education

administrative purposes. Discussions are currently underway to as to the best means of providing for both the administrative office space needs of the Board of Education and the future space needs of an expanded Alternative High School. These uses have a combined space requirement of 20,000 square feet of building space.

Other School Facility Improvements: The Town's draft Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) through FY 2007 includes \$15,809,000 for a variety of improvements to Newtown's public schools. Of this amount, \$13,307,000 is earmarked for heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) improvements. The Board of Education has organized a community committee to further review HVAC improvement needs. Other significant school facility improvements identified in the CIP include building renovations to create four classrooms, connecting the Middle Gate School to the United Water Connecticut's water system, improving athletic fields at the Middle School and auditorium improvements.

C. Park and Recreation Facilities

Playing Fields: Newtown's active Parks and Recreation facilities are in good condition. Several of the elementary school playing fields utilized by the Parks and Recreation Department are in need of improvements to make them more usable. The Town's draft Capital Improvements Plan through the fiscal year 2007 has programmed \$1,152,000 for improvements to the Middle School's athletic fields.

The Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission has identified the additional recreation facilities required to support the level of recreational activities desired by Newtown residents over the next ten years. As a part of the process to purchase the 185 acre former Fairfield Hills Hospital campus, the Parks and Recreation Commission identified the need for 7 additional recreation / playing fields, to be constructed on the Fairfield Hills property. These include; 2 baseball fields with 90' base paths, 2 adult softball fields, 2 combination soccer/lacrosse fields and 1 youth baseball field.

Funding for the development of these seven new playing fields was included in the bond package adopted by town residents in June of 2001 to facilitate the purchase of the Fairfield Hills property and the seven new playing fields have been incorporated into the draft master plan for Fairfield Hills.

Building Facilities: As a part of the ten year planning process, Parks and Recreation identified the need for a recreation center building to support a variety of recreational programs provided to residents on a year round basis. The desired recreation center would include: 2 oversized gyms to allow for two full court games, with lockers, showers and equipment storage; a smaller gym for karate, dancing and aerobic exercise programs; an auditorium; all purpose rooms for music, crafts and toddler programs; an indoor swimming pool; a new teen center; an outdoor skateboard facility; an outdoor basketball court and an outdoor playground. The draft master plan for

Fairfield Hills will accommodate either the development of a new recreation center located in close proximity to the seven new playing fields or the renovation and expansion of an existing campus building (Plymouth Hall) into a recreation center. Newtown's draft Capital Improvements Plan allocates \$2,300,000 for the design and construction of this facility in FY-2005 and FY-2006.

Parks and Recreation has also identified the need for a 10,000 square foot maintenance facility. This facility would provide office space, vehicle maintenance, bathrooms, lockers and showers, outside storage for maintenance materials (clay, soil, etc.) and equipment storage and parking for cars and trucks. The Town's draft Capital Improvements Plan allocates \$1,600,000 for the development of this facility. The Capital Improvements Plan also programs funding for renovation of the Dickenson Park pond, consideration of a dome over the Treadwell Park swimming pool and lighting for the Tilson soccer field.



Park and Recreation Maintenance Building

D. Senior Center

The role of municipal senior citizen centers have changed over the years to keep pace with the changing needs of our aging population. At one time senior centers were predominately social and recreational facilities. While still serving those functions, the centers have evolved to become a base for the provision of a variety of informational and social services to senior citizens.

The Town's 60 and older population increased by 439 persons between 1990 - 2000, representing a 16.6% increase in this age group and the 55 to 59 age category increased by 40.3% during the same period, indicating a continuation of the growth in Newtown's senior population.



Newtown's Senior Center is located in the Town's Multi-Purpose Building on Riverside Road in Sandy Hook. The center currently occupies approximately 800 square feet of space. During the Fairfield Hills Master Planning process, the Senior Center identified a need for approximately 2,500 square feet of space. The future space needs of the Senior Center could be accommodated at Fairfield Hills. One option discussed during Fairfield Hills master plan discussions was the relocation of the Senior Center into a portion of a remodeled Plymouth Hall. This facility was

previously used for a variety of recreational and craft uses and a portion could be remodeled to satisfy the space needs of the Senior Center. No monies have been programmed in the Town's Capital Improvements Program for this use.

E. Sanitary Sewer System

Public sanitary sewer service is new to Newtown, having been completed since the preparation of the 1993 POD. Newtown's public sewer system was developed in conjunction with a municipal sewer avoidance program. The municipal sewer system was designed to address sewage disposal problems and the Town's sewer avoidance program is designed to eliminate the need to extend the municipal sewer system to serve additional residential areas in the future.

Newtown's municipal sewer system serves the central area of the Town, including most of the Borough and Sandy Hook Center, as described on the attached map. The system's treatment plant was developed jointly with the State of Connecticut and was designed to serve Town needs, the State's Garner Correctional facility and the future use of the abandoned Fairfield Hills hospital complex. The Town will most likely receive additional access to the plant's treatment capacity once the acquisition of Fairfield Hills has been completed. The sewer system contains approximately twenty miles of piping, four pump stations and a treatment facility located at the end of Commerce Road with the capacity to treat 932,000 gallons of sewage daily. Current sewage treatment at the plant averages 500,000 – 600,000 gallons per day. The system was completed in 1997.



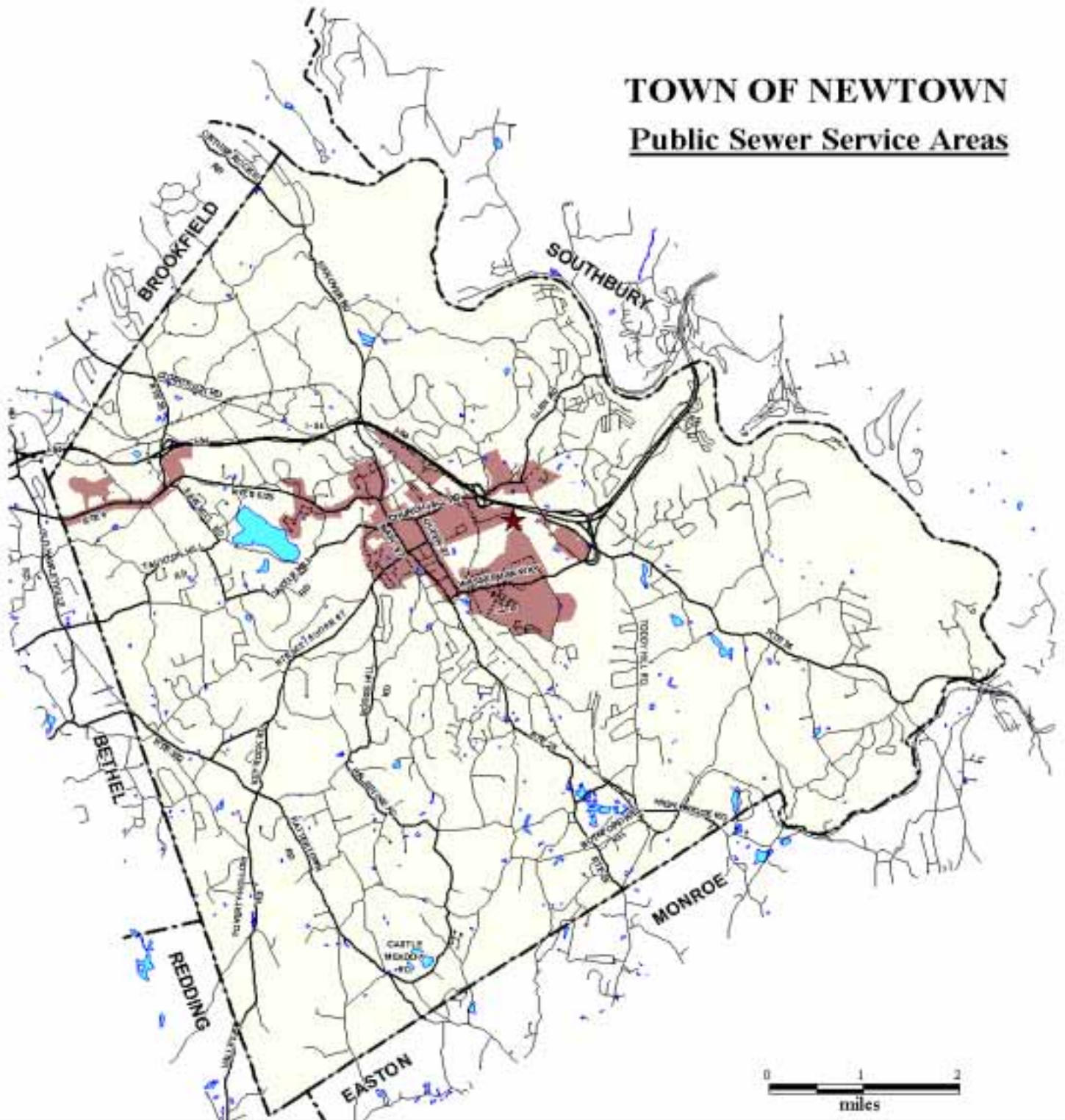
Sewer System Administration and Control Facility

The intent of the Town's sewer avoidance policies are to foster the maintenance of existing onsite septic systems outside of the sewer service areas and avoid the need to extend sewer service beyond the current limits of service to serve failed systems.

Public sanitary sewer service is also provided within the Route 6 corridor in the Hawleyville area of Town, extending toward the Bethel town line. Sewer service within this area is pumped into the City of Danbury's municipal sewer system and treated at the City's Plumbtrees Road treatment facility, as per an inter-municipal agreement that provides Newtown with the treatment capacity of up to 150,000 gallons of sewage per day. The sewer service provided within the Hawleyville area pursuant to this agreement is intended to primarily serve economic development activities. To date, approximately 30,000 gallons of this capacity has been allocated for two area uses.

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Public Sewer Service Areas



SOURCE OF BASE MAP:

Road Network -
Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials; HMA

Sewer Service Areas -
Fuss & O'Neil, Inc.; Newtown WPCA & DPW; HMA

This map was prepared for use as a
planning document, delineations are not exact.

Legend

- PUBLIC SEWER SERVICE AREAS
- SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Public Sewer Service

Plan of Conservation & Development

NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT



**HARRALL - MICHALOWSKI
ASSOCIATES, Incorporated**

Hartford, Connecticut

January 2003



F. Water Service

United Water Connecticut

Most of Newtown's 8,500+ households and 800+ businesses obtain their drinking water from private onsite wells. United Water Connecticut (UWC) is the largest provider of water service in the Town of Newtown, with 1,153 residential customers and 185 commercial and industrial customers in 2002. In addition, UWC provides fire hydrant services for the Town and the Borough, as well as to private parties. UWC is a private water company regulated by the State of Connecticut. The map which follows identifies the areas of Newtown currently served by UWC.

When the 1993 POD was prepared, water service was provided by the Newtown Water Company, which at that time served 981 residential customers and 144 commercial and industrial customers. The Newtown Water Company was merged into the United Water Company on April 22, 1994 and the United Water Company eventually became United Water Connecticut (UWC).

UWC obtains water supplied to its Newtown customers exclusively from two wells located in the Pootatuck Aquifer. These wells are located in the southern area of Town on the east side of Route 25, just north of the Sand Hill Plaza Shopping Center. Currently, UWC pumps an average of 437,000 gallons per day, with peak pumping demand of around 700,000 gallons per day. UWC's wells have a sustained yield of 1,500,000 gallons per day. Since the preparation of the 1993 POD, the UWC has upgraded its Reservoir Road storage tank capacity from 200,000 gallons to 560,000 gallons. UWC is currently planning on developing a new well in the Pootatuck Aquifer, in the Sandy Hook area of Town and UWC is also considering the possibility of developing additional water resources outside of the Pootatuck Aquifer.

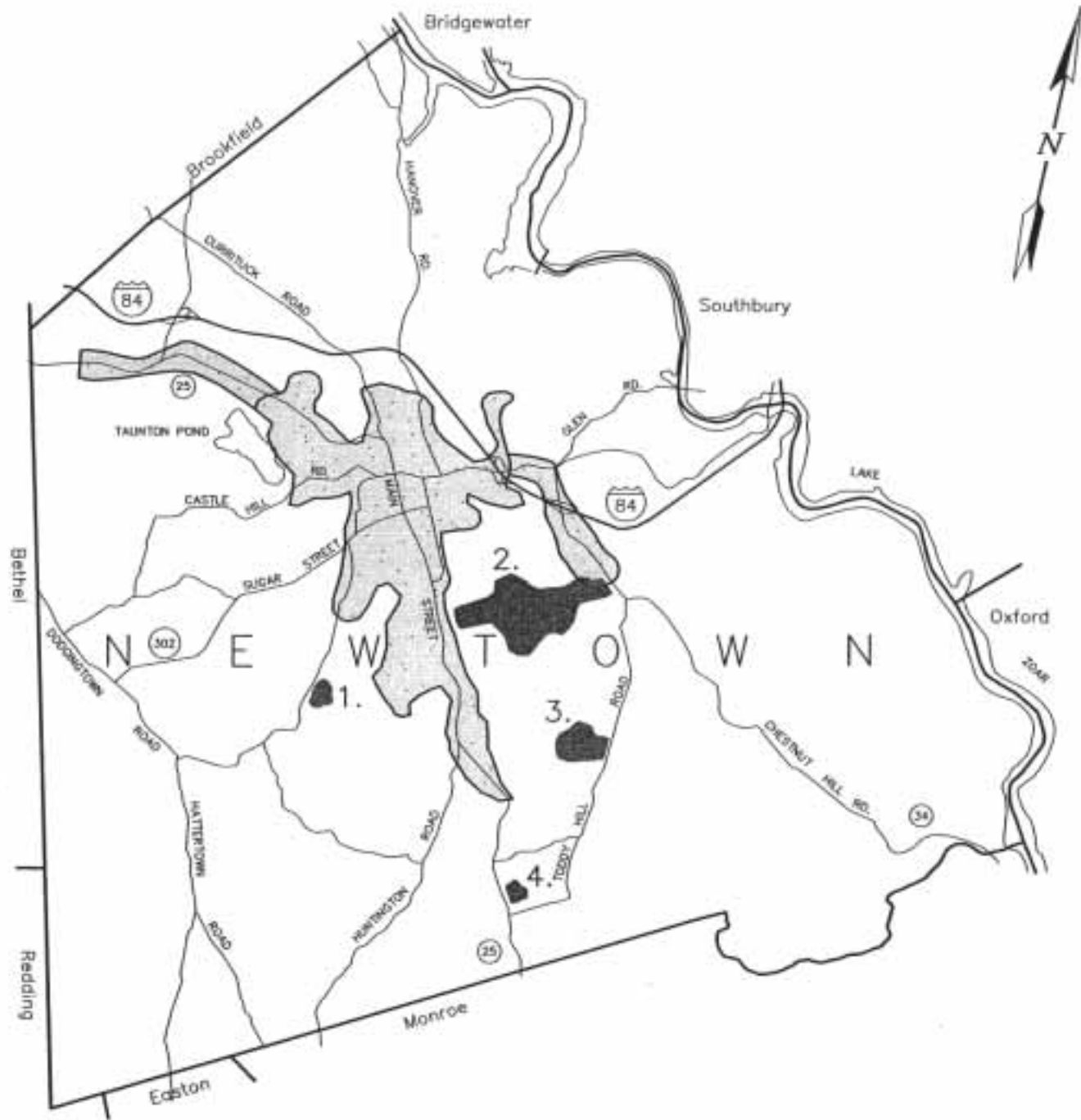


United Water Pump House

Some of UWC's service expansions since to 1993 POD include the Sandy Hook School, Fire House and Multi-Purpose Building and other Sandy Hook areas. UWC will continue to expand to meet emerging needs. Recent service expansions include providing water service to the Newtown High School and providing service along Route 6 in the Hawleyville area, extending nearly to the Bethel town boundary. Expansion of the UWC system is done at the expense of those desiring service.

Pootatuck River Aquifer

The 26.1 square mile Pootatuck River watershed, which supplies the 7.9 square mile Pootatuck Aquifer, lies mainly within Newtown, with small portions located in the towns of Easton and Monroe. In 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated the Pootatuck Aquifer as a "sole source aquifer" pursuant to Section



LEGEND

-  EXISTING SERVICE AREA
-  SERVED BY INDIVIDUAL DOMESTIC SUPPLY WELLS
-  OTHER WATER SYSTEMS
 - 1. Meadowbrook Terrace Mobile Home Park
 - 2. Fairfield Hills Hospital
 - 3. Chestnut Tree Hill
 - 4. Bay Colony Mobile Home Park

0 7000
APPROXIMATE SCALE IN FEET

UNITED WATER CONNECTICUT WATER SUPPLY PLAN NEWTOWN SYSTEM

SERVICE AREA AND OTHER OPERATING SYSTEMS

DATE	REVISED	PREPARED BY:	
		LEGGETTE, BRASHEARS & GRAHAM, INC.	
		Professional Ground-Water and Environmental Engineering Services	
		126 Monroe Turnpike	
		Trumbull, CT 06611	
		(203) 452-3100	
DRAWN: TLC		CHECKED: MJS	DATE: 11/5/02
		FIGURE: 3	

1424(e) of the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act. This designation concludes that "...the Pootatuck Aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for the residents of that area and that there are no viable alternative sources of sufficient water supply." In making this determination the U.S. EPA concluded "...the aquifer is capable of yielding approximately 4.0 million gallons per day (mgd). At least half of the amount will be required to maintain stream quality and to support waste assimilation and the cold water fishery. The State of Connecticut's diversion control law would, in all likelihood, prohibit withdrawals in excess of 2 mgd. Current water use is 1,009,406 gallons per day and projected water supply demand does not increase and drought conditions do not prevail, Newtown should have sufficient water supplies for the next 40 years."



United Water Wellhead
Adjacent to the Pootatuck River

To safeguard the water resources located in the Pootatuck Aquifer, the Newtown Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) adopted Aquifer Protection regulations in 1994, that were subsequently updated in 1999. The Conservation Commission has been designated to act as the Town's Aquifer Protection Agency. In 2000, the PZC rezoned land in support of aquifer protection and sewer avoidance. The Town is currently considering making a request to the US Geological Survey (USGS) to update the 1978 USGS study of the Pootatuck Aquifer and further evaluate the affects of ground water withdrawal on aquatic habitat within the sole source Pootatuck Aquifer.

In addition to the United Water Company, there are several other operating water systems, most of which are quite small. The largest of these is the system developed by the State of Connecticut in the 1930's to serve the Fairfield Hills Hospital complex located near the geographic center of Newtown. It was estimated by the 1993 POD that this system provided water resources to 2,240 people, drawing an average of 260,000 gallons per day. Since then, the State has closed this mental health hospital and is in the process of selling this facility and surrounding 185 acres to the Town. The water system serving Fairfield Hills includes three wells which draw from the Pootatuck Aquifer and two 500,000 gallon storage tanks located on the highpoint of the hospital grounds. Two of the wells are located on property leased from the Pootatuck Land Company. These two wells each yield in the range of 200 to 400 gallons per minute. This system currently provides water service to Nunnawauk Meadows senior housing facility and to the State's Garner Correctional facility. There is a physical interconnection between the Fairfield Hills water system and the United Water Connecticut system which provides a backup water resource in the case of an emergency.

G. Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

Fire protection and emergency medical services in Newtown are provided on a volunteer basis. Newtown has five volunteer fire departments and one volunteer ambulance organization. These organizations are staffed by approximately 150 area residents who volunteer their time to serve the Town. Volunteers serve in a number of capacities, from fighting fires and rendering emergency medical services to providing training, maintaining equipment, record keeping, etc. Newtown's five fire departments include:

- Newtown Hook and Ladder- 45 Main Street
- Hawleyville Volunteer Fire Company- Hawleyville
- Dodgingtown- 55 Dodgingtown Road (Route 34)
- United Fire Company of Botsford- 315 South Main Street (Route 25)
- Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire Company- 18 Riverside Road (main station)
- Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire Company- 249 Berkshire Road (Route 34 sub station)

The location of Newtown's volunteer fire departments reflects the fact that Newtown is one of the largest towns in Connecticut and fire protection has evolved over the years to provide coverage to Newtown's central Borough and historic hamlets and neighborhoods, extending coverage to the entire Town. Each volunteer fire department has a defined service area and the Newtown Board of Fire Commissioners functions to coordinate services between the five departments and helps to allocate municipal financial support. Newtown's draft Capital Improvements Plan through the year 2007 has allocated \$1,390,000 for the purchase of four fire trucks.

The Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Corp provides emergency medical services for the Town. Operating from a station located on Mt. Pleasant Road (Routes 6 and 25) this organization has nearly 50 volunteers with EMT certification who respond to approximately 1,400 calls a year.

H. Police Protection

The requirements for municipal police services in Newtown have continually evolved to meet the changing needs of a growing and changing Town during the Newtown Police Departments 31 years of existence. These changes result from the growth of the Town as well as societal changes. At the present time the Newtown Police Department has a staff of approximately 42 sworn officers and thirteen civilian employees. The Department handled 11,349 calls for service during 2001.



Police Station at Town



Newtown Hook & Ladder Company



Hawleyville Volunteer Fire Company



Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire
and Rescue Company



Dodgingtown Volunteer Fire Company



Sandy Hook Volunteer Fire
and Rescue Company- Sub Station



Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Corp



United Fire Company of Botsford

NEWTOWN'S VOLUNTEER FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES FACILITIES

The police department is housed in Town Hall South, at the intersection of Routes 25 and 302 and Glover Avenue. In the Department's Five Year Plan released in July of 2001, this facility was termed "generally inadequate and lack(s) the design specifications to meet the operational needs of the force." While the building's location provides good accessibility to the general public and is structurally sound, it lacks adequate space for parking and will continue to require periodic interior and exterior repairs to address problems created by the presence of building materials that are not durable. The Five Year Plan calls for a "comprehensive environmental space needs study for the police department. Architectural drawings of a modified, rehabilitated police department or a new police department which adequately addresses the needs of the department for the next 20 years." Newtown's draft Capital Improvements Plan through the year 2007 has allocated \$200,000 for this space needs analysis.

I. Library

The Cyrenius H. Booth Library was a gift to the Town of Newtown by Mary Hawley and was opened in 1932. A major expansion of the library nearly doubled floor space and was completed in 1998. In addition to an extensive collection of traditional library resources, the Booth Library also offers connectivity to a variety of "on-line" digital resources and ten computers with internet access available for use by library patrons.



The "Friends of the Cyrenius H. Booth Library" conduct a number of fund raising events to support a variety of library projects. The main fund raiser is the annual used book sale held on Labor Day weekend. This book sale features approximately 150,000 books and raises nearly \$100,000 for use by the "Friends" in support of the Library.

J. Town Roads

There are 34 miles of state roads in Newtown and 226 miles of local roads whose maintenance is the responsibility of the Town. See the Transportation and Circulation element for a description of transportation issues in Newtown. The Town's extensive road system includes a network of older roads that function as collector roads for Newtown numerous newer subdivisions. This extensive road system will require constant attention to maintain the affected Town roads, bridges and 4,600 catch basins. Twenty-one bridges are programmed for improvement during the next seven to ten years.

Newtown has an ongoing road maintenance program to address Town roads exhibiting structural base and drainage problems, as well as a program of annual street sealing to postpone future costly repairs, all done within the limits of available funding.

Newtown's draft Capital Improvements Plan through the fiscal year 2007 allocates \$2,000,000 annually for a variety of improvements to Newtown's road infrastructure.

K. Solid Waste Disposal

Following the preparation of the 1993 POCD, the Town closed its landfill. As a member of the Housatonic Resource Recovery Authority (HRRRA), Newtown hosts a regional transfer station serving Newtown and Brookfield from its Ethan Allen Road facility. The Town owns the land under the transfer station and the transfer station facilities are owned by Wheelabrator Technologies Inc, a wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Management Inc. Town residents can use the transfer station during its normal operating hours by showing proper proof of residency, or purchase trash collection services from private refuse collection companies.



Refuse Transfer Station and Recycling Center

Solid waste from HRRRA member towns is disposed of by Wheelabrator pursuant to a long term agreement between HRRRA and Wheelabrator. The Town is obligated to deliver a minimum tonnage of solid waste annually. The current cost to the Town to dispose of solid waste (tipping fee) is \$73 per ton. This system has the capacity to handle solid waste disposal for the next 10 years.

Newtown participates in the HRRRA recycling program. The Town operates a recycling center at its Ethan Allen Road facility. The Town includes the cost of recycling collection in its tax base. Residents can also "drop-off" their recyclables at the Town's recycling center.

Historically, Newtown has participated in an annual household hazardous waste (HHW) collection day organized by the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials and HRRRA and held in the City of Danbury. There have been discussions about the possibility of developing a permanent HHW facility to serve the Housatonic

Valley Region. However no implementation program for such a facility has yet evolved.

II. ISSUES , GOALS AND STRATEGIES

ISSUE #1: General Government Facilities

1. Newtown's general government functions are located in several facilities throughout the Town.

Goal: Strive for a more organized and efficient approach to housing municipal government operations.

Strategies:

1. Continue to pursue the development of a new town hall facility on the Fairfield Hills campus that will house the municipal office operations currently located in Edmond Town Hall, Canaan House and the Public Works Garage.

ISSUE #2: Public School System

1. Continued growth in Newtown's population during the next ten years is likely to necessitate expansion of the Town's High School facilities.

Goal: If the existing High School can not be expanded to meet projected needs, consider the utilization of Fairfield Hills resources to meet expansion requirements.

Strategies:

1. The Board of Education will determine the best options for meeting future High School facility requirements.
2. In addition to high school facility needs, consider "land banking" a 25 acre site in southeastern Newtown for the location of an elementary school that may be required beyond the 10 year planning horizon of this POCD.

ISSUE #3: Parks and Recreation Facilities

1. Newtown's population growth has lead to the need for additional recreational facilities.

Goal: Implement Park and Recreation's 10 Year Facilities Plan.

Strategies:

1. Develop seven additional playing fields on the Fairfield Hills campus, as approved by voters in June of 2001 and as included in the Draft Master Plan for the future use of Fairfield Hills campus.
2. Develop a new recreation center building on the Fairfield Hills campus, as currently programmed in the draft Capital Improvements Plan.
3. Develop a new maintenance facility to serve the needs of Parks and Recreation, as currently programmed in the draft Capital Improvements Plan.

ISSUE #4: Senior Center

1. Newtown's Senior Center does not have enough space for its current operations and the Town's senior population will continue to grow during the next ten years.

Goal:Provide sufficient space for the operations of the Town's Senior Center.

Strategies:

1. Pursue the programming, budgeting and development of a new and expanded Senior Center facility on the Fairfield Hills campus.

ISSUE #5: Public Sewer System

1. The existing excess capacity of the Town's sewage treatment plant is limited.

Goal:Maintain the capacity of the existing system to meet future needs.

Strategies:

1. Maintain a strong sewer avoidance program.
2. Expand the sewer service area to include the 38 acres of land the Town will be receiving from the State, adjacent to Commerce Road. The Town has zoned this land to M-5 to support a wide variety of business uses.
3. Review future hookups to the sewer system that are located outside the current service area to ensure continuity with the goals of the updated Plan of Conservation and Development.

ISSUE #6: Water Service

1. Newtown's public water system is solely dependant on water from the Pootatuck Aquifer.

Goal:Protect the Pootatuck Aquifer and consider developing additional drinking water resources.

Strategies:

1. Continue municipal efforts to protect the Pootatuck Aquifer.

2. Consider the identification and protection of additional drinking water resources to serve Newtown.
3. Consider extending municipal protection to additional aquifers that possess the potential to serve as drinking water resources.

ISSUE #7: Police Protection, Fire Protection and Emergency Services

1. Newtown's growing population will place additional demands for police, fire and emergency services.

Goal: Continue to provide for a high level of these services.

Strategies:

1. Upgrade the existing Police Station or develop a new facility.
2. Continue financial support for and coordination of the operation of fire and emergency services within Newtown.
3. Consider actions that will encourage more Newtown residents to volunteer for fire and emergency service activities.